

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5 and 56, as follows:

1 5. (Thrice Amended) The video [cassette] tape recorder according to claim 4, said
2 microcomputer [for] determining if there is a lock key data input from said keyboard or said
3 remote control when said video tape recorder is in a power-standby status and [controls]
4 controlling said character generating circuit to display a corresponding prompt message on a
5 screen requesting a user to input a secret code one character at a time[.];

6 said character generating circuit [for] changing said displayed prompt message to
7 correspond to a desired one of a sequence of characters of said secret code said user is to input
8 following an input of a previous one of said characters[.];

9 said microcomputer [for] storing each input character of said secret code if said input
10 character corresponds to a numerical key of [said] the keyboard or remote control,

11 said microcomputer [for] immediately checking said video cassette recorder to determine
12 if said video cassette recorder is in a locked state after said user completes the inputting of the
13 secret code,

14 said microcomputer [for] controlling said video mute circuit and said audio mute circuit
15 responsive to said first control output and said second control output, respectively, to prevent
16 output of said first video signal and to mute said voice signal if said video cassette recorder is

17 determined [not] to not be in said locked state, and

18 said microcomputer [for] comparing said input secret code to a code previously stored if
19 said video cassette recorder is determined to be in said locked state and, if there is a match, [for]
20 determining that said period of time has expired and disabling said video mute circuit and said
21 audio mute circuit.

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56. (Amended) A process for locking and unlocking a signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first lock key data signal;

generating a first character signal in response to said first lock key data signal;

receiving an audio signal;

mixing said first character signal and a first video signal;

displaying a first video image in correspondence with said mixing of said first character
signal and said first video signal;

receiving a second lock-key data signal after receiving said first lock-key data signal;

generating a second character signal and a mode change signal in response to said second
lock-key data signal;

mixing said first character signal and a second video signal;

displaying a second video image in correspondence with said mixing of said first
character signal and said second video signal; and

changing a locking state and an unlocking state of said audio signal in accordance with
said mode change signal by preventing dissemination of said audio signal during said locking